1. *Imaam Abu Haneefah* رحمه الله

2. The Necessity for Codifying Fiqh

3. The Popularity of the Hanafi Madh'hab in the Indian Subcontinent

The Imaam of the Imaams, the leader of the Fuqahaa and Mujtahideen, Haafidh of Hadith Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was that Mujtahid of the highest calibre, that Muhaddith, ascetic, pious and humble Imaam whose virtues and attributes have been lauded by great Muhadditheen and Ulema of all the Madhaahib. One may refer to their various books for details.

Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله is commonly referred to as *Imaame A'zam* (The greatest of the Imaams) and has been revered by a large group of Ulema and Muhadditheen. In fact, more than half of the Ummah are his followers.

He was born during the period of the Sahabah ψ and was an embodiment of piety, knowledge and all good attributes. His hometown was Kufa, which was then a seat of knowledge because thousands of Sahabah ψ lived there. There were over a thousand Fuqahaa in Kufa, a hundred and fifty of whom were Sahabah ψ. Amongst these were people like Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ and Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah τ as well as four thousand students of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mas'ood τ and eight hundred students of Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah τ. It was amongst such people that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was brought up and together with this, he also studied under the Ulema of the Haramain.

GLAD TIDINGS FOR IMAAM ABU HANEEFAH رحمه الله FROM THE AHADEETH

Rasulullaah ρ once said, "Even if Imaan has to be on the Pleiades constellation, a man of Persian descent would get it from there."[1] Another Hadith states that Rasulullaah ρ said that some people of Persian descent will get it from there. Imaam Jalaaluddeen Suyuti رحمه الله reports from many Muhadditheen like Imaam Bukhaari رحمه الله and Imaam Muslim رحمه الله that these Ahadeeth refer specifically to Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله. One of Imaam Suyuti رحمه الله's students writes, this statement of his teacher is absolutely true because no other person of Persian descent reached the height of knowledge that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله reached.[2]

Shah Wali'ullaah Muhaddith Dehlawi رحمه الله also says that the Hadith refers to none other but Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and the author of *Ghaayatul Awtaar*[3] writes: "It is certain that the Hadith of Bukhaari and Muslim refers to *Imaame A'zam* and his students because none of the descendants of the Persians had more knowledge and a deeper understanding of the Deen than them."

IMAAM ABU HANEEFAH رحمه الله WAS A TAABI'EE

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[1] Muslim (Vol.2 Pg.312) and Bukhaari (Vol.2 Pg.727).
[2] *Shaami* (Vol.1 Pg.49).
[3] Translation of *Durrul Mukhtaar* (Vol.1 Pg.23).

Allaama Ibn Hajar Haythami Makki رحمه الله writes in his *Khayraatul Hisaan*[4] that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was amongst the greatest of the Taabi'een and that he met a large group of the Sahabah ψ who lived in Kufa after his birth in 80 A.H. None of the Imaams in his time had this honour, not even Imaam Awzaa'ee رحمه الله who was in Shaamn, the two Imaams named Hammaad who were in Basrah, Imaam Thowri رحمه الله who was in Kufa, Imaam Maalik رحمه الله who was in Madinah and Imaam Layth bin Sa'd رحمه الله who was in Egypt.

A large group of critics have verified that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was reliable in his narrations, had a profound knowledge of Ahadeeth and his narration were absolutely reliable. Here we shall quote a few of these experts:

1. Imaam Yahya bin Ma'een رحمه الله (passed away 233 A.H.) was a famous saint, Muhaddith and expert in the subject of *Rijaal* (critical analysis of the narrators of Ahadeeth). He taught Imaam Bukhaari رحمه الله and other Muhadditheen and Imaam Bukhaari رحمه الله has the following to say about him, "I have never seen myself belittled (in terms of knowledge) in front of anyone other than Yahya bin Ma'een رحمه الله." This same Imaam Yahya رحمه الله attests to the great calibre of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and says, "He is *Thiqa* (reliable) and trustworthy and I have never heard anyone who regards him to be a weak narrator."[5] He also mentioned that the best Fiqh in his estimation is that of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله.[6]
2. Imaam Yahya bin Sa'eed Qattaan رحمه الله (passed away 198 A.H.) was also a famous saint, Muhaddith and expert in the subject of *Rijaal* (critical analysis of the narrators of Ahadeeth). He taught the likes of Imaam Ahmad رحمه الله and Imaam Ali bin Madeeni رحمه الله. Despite his profound knowledge, he learnt from Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and expressed great praise in being a student of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله. He followed the rulings of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله in many cases and had the following to say about Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله:

    - "I have never heard an opinion better than those of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله". He would therefore issue rulings corresponding to those of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله.[7]
    - "By Allaah! We sat in the company of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and learnt Ahadeeth from him and each time I looked at his face, I could see that he was a person who feared Allaah."[8]
    - "There was none other than Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله to solve the problems people were having. Although he was not known of initially, his status and position then multiplied in leaps and bounds."[9]

3. Ameerul Mu'mineen in Hadith Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله (passed away 181 A.H.) was one of the most senior of the Muhadditheen and the teacher of people like Imaam Ahmad رحمه الله and Imaam Yahya bin Ma'een رحمه الله. In fact, the first books that Imaam Bukhaari رحمه الله studied were those of Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله. He is unanimously regarded as the Ameerul Mu'mineen in the field of Ahadeeth and Imaams Bukhaari رحمه الله and Muslim رحمه الله narrate many Ahadeeth from him. He was one of the special students of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and was so captivated by the personality of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله that he stayed

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[4] Pg.21.
[5] *Umdatul Qaari* (Vol.3 Pg.66).
[6] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.30.
[7] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.31.
[8] *Muwaffaq* (Vol.1 Pg.191).
[9] *Muwaffaq* (Vol.2 Pg.45).

with him throughout his life. He had the following to say about Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله:

- "He (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله) was amongst those who knew the most Ahadeeth of Rasulullaah ρ and had studied Ahadeeth from many teachers." Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله used to encourage people to follow Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and say, "We have been to many scholars of Hijaaz and Iraq but have never found a class more blessed and more beneficial than that of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله."[10]
- "I have been to many cities but I had never known the principles of Halaal and Haraam until I met him (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله)."[11]
- "I have studied under many teachers but have never known any as proficient in Fataawaa as he (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله)."[12]
- "Were it not for sounding prejudiced, I would say that I have never seen anyone as proficient in Fataawaa as he (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله)."[13]
- "He (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله) excelled people in his memory for Ahadeeth, his Fiqh, his knowledge, his trustworthiness and his sheer piety."[14]
- "He had the deepest understanding of Deen and I have never seen any other with a deeper understanding than he."[15]
- If an opinion is to be sought, it is to be taken from Maalik, Sufyaan and Abu Haneefah رحمه الله . From them, the one with the best, the deepest and most finely tuned understanding is Abu Haneefah رحمه الله .[16]
- There is none more worthy of being followed than Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله because he was an Imaam, a pious man, an Aalim and a Faqih. With his keen insight, understanding and intelligence, he has exposed knowledge in such a way that no other person has done.[17]

4. Imaam A'mash Kufi رحمه الله (passed away 148 A.H.) was an eminent Faqih and Muhaddith of Kufa and one of the teachers of the great Muhadditheen. Despite this, he always had words of praise for Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله. Note the following.
    - On one occasion when he was asked a question, he referred the questioner to Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله, saying that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله will have a better reply because he has been blessed in his knowledge.[18]
    - Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Umar reports that he was once sitting with Imaam A'mash رحمه الله when Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله also arrived there. Someone then asked an intricate question, about which Imaam A'mash رحمه الله kept his peace. He then turned to Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and asked him what the answer was. When Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله gave a satisfying reply, Imaam A'mash رحمه الله asked him from which Hadith did he derive the reply. Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله then explained that it was from a Hadith that Imaam A'mash رحمه الله had himself narrated to him. He also explained how he had arrived at the conclusion. To this, Imaam A'mash رحمه الله exclaimed, **"We**

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[10] *Manaaqib Kurdi* (Vol.1 Pg.103).
[11] *Manaaqib Kurdi* (Vol.1 Pg.103).
[12] *Manaaqib Kurdi* (Vol.1 Pg.104).
[13] *Manaaqib Kurdi* (Vol.1 Pg.104).
[14] *Jaami Bayaanil Ilm*, as quoted in *Taqleede A'immah* pg.113.
[15] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.29.
[16] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.29.
[17] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.29.
[18] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.31.

(the Muhadditheen) are just the pharmacists while you people (the Fuqahaa) are the doctors."[19]

5. Ameerul Mu'mineen in Hadith Hadhrat Shu'ba bin Hajjaaj رحمه الله (passed away 160 A.H.) was one of the highest ranking narrators of all those whose narrations are included in the most authentic books of Ahadeeth. He had a very good relationship with Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله . Note the following:
   - Whenever he was asked about Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله, he would always laud praises on him and sent him a gift every year.[20]
   - When he heard that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله had passed away, he exclaimed, ""*Innaa Lillaahi wa Innaa Ilayhi Raaji'oon!* The light of knowledge had been extinguished for the people of Kufa, the likes of which they will never see again."[21]

6. The Imaam of Ahadeeth Hadhrat Ali bin Madeeni رحمه الله (passed away 234 A.H.) was the teacher of personalities like Imaam Bukhaari رحمه الله, Imaam Abu Dawood رحمه الله and Imaam Dhahabi رحمه الله. He was always praising Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and said:

   - Men like Thowri, Ibn Mubaarak, Hammaad bin Zaid, Hishaam, Wakee, Abbaad bin Awaam and Ja'far bin Maymoon have all narrated from Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله, who is absolutely reliable and no objections can be levelled against him."[22]

7. Imaamul Hadith Hadhrat Sufyaan Thowri رحمه الله (passed away 161 A.H.) was a Muhaddith of the highest calibre. Khateeb writes that all scholars are unanimous about his piety, reliability in knowledge and being an authority of the highest ranking. He was a contemporary of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and both men revered and stood in great praise of each other. He had the following to say about Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله:

   - "I swear by Allaah that he was extremely proficient in acquiring knowledge and abstained rigidly from what was forbidden. He practised only that which was conclusively proven from Rasulullaah ρ and he had profound knowledge of what was abrogated and what was not. He always researched the actions that Rasulullaah ρ did during the final stages of his life."[23]
   - Hadhrat Muhammad bin Muntashir San'aani رحمه الله says, "When I once went to Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله, he asked me where I was coming from. When I told him that I had come from Imaam Sufyaan Thowri رحمه الله, he remarked, 'You are coming from a man whom even Alqama and Aswad would have been in need of had they been alive.' When I then went to Sufyaan رحمه الله and he asked me where I had come from, I replied that I had been with Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله. He then remarked, 'You have come from a man who is the greatest Faqih on earth.'"[24]
   - Whenever Hadhrat Sufyaan رحمه الله was asked an intricate ruling, he would say, "None would have a better answer to that other than the man we all envied." He would then turn to one of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله's students and ask, "What has your teacher got to say about that?" After the student

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[19] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.61
[20] *Muwaffaq* (Vol.2 Pg.46).
[21] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.62.
[22] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.67.
[23] *Kurdi* (Vol.2 Pg.1) and *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.30.
[24] *Kurdi* (Vol.2 Pg.11).

had given the reply, Imaam Sufyaan رحمه الله would take note of the reply and then issue his verdict according to the reply.[25]

8. The famous Muhaddith Hadhrat Yazeed bin Haaroon رحمه الله (passed away 206 A.H.) was a great scholar of his time. He studied under Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله, Imaam Maalik رحمه الله and Hadhrat Sufyaan Thowri رحمه الله. Amongst the countless students he had, some of the famous ones were Hadhrat Ali bin Madeeni رحمه الله and Imaam Yahya bin Ma'een رحمه الله. Seventy thousand people would listen to his lessons at the same time and he performed the Isha and Fajr salaahs with the same wudhu for forty years[26]. He has the following to say about Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله:

   - Although I have studied under a thousand teachers, I have never found any with as much Taqwa and more truthful than Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله.
   - Hadhrat Muhammad bin Sa'd رحمه الله reports that Hadhrat Yazeed bin Haaroon رحمه الله was once with Hadhrat Yahya bin Ma'een رحمه الله, Hadhrat Ali bin Madeeni رحمه الله, Hadhrat Ahmad bin Hambal رحمه الله, Hadhrat Zuhary bin Harb رحمه الله and several others when a person arrived and posed a question. "Go to the men of knowledge," Hadhrat Yazeed رحمه الله told the man. "Are the men of knowledge and Ahadeeth not with you?" Hadhrat Ali bin Madeeni رحمه الله asked. Hadhrat Yazeed رحمه الله replied, "The people of knowledge are the students of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله. You people are the pharmacists."[27]
   - When someone once asked him when it would be alright for a person to issue Fataawaa, he replied, "When the person is like Abu Haneefah رحمه الله." "It is strange that you should, say that," the person remarked. Hadhrat Yazeed رحمه الله then said, "You are right. I should actually give him more praise than that. I have not seen a man who is a greater Aalim and Faqih than he. I have also not seen anyone as pious as he. I once saw him sitting beside someone's door in the sweltering heat. When I asked him why he did not rather sit in the shade of the house, he replied that it was because the owner of the house owed him some money (he did not want to take from the person more than what was due by sitting in his shade as well). Hadhrat Yazeed then added, "Have you ever seen anyone more pious than that?"[28]

9. Imaam Wakee bin Jarraah رحمه الله (passed away 197 A.H.) was one of the senior teachers of the Imaams who compiled the six most authentic books of Ahadeeth.

   - A very intricate Hadith once came up in his lesson, which made him stand up and sigh, "Regret will be of no use now. Where is Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله now to solve the problem for us?!"[29]
   - He once said, "I have never met a Faqih greater than Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله nor anyone who performed salaah better than he."[30]

10. Haafidhul Hadith Hadhrat Imaam Abu Yusuf رحمه الله (passed away 182 A.H.) was an Imaam in the field of Ahadeeth and the teacher of great Muhadditheen like Imaams Ahmad, Yahya bin Ma'een and Imaam Ali bin Madeeni رحمهم الله . These were

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[25] *Muwaffaq* (Vol.2 Pg.14).
[26] *Anwaarul Baari* (Vol.1 Pg.80).
[27] *Muwaffaq* (Vol.2 Pg.47).
[28] *Muwaffaq* (Vol.1 Pg.191).
[29] *Kurdi* (Vol.1 Pg.97).
[30] *Hadaa'iqe Hanafiyyah* pg.78.

all senior teachers of the likes of Imaam Bukhaari رحمه الله and other Muhadditheen. Imaam Abu Yusuf رحمه الله was one of the senior students of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and he has the following to say:

- "He (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله) had a deeper understanding of authentic Ahadeeth than I had."[31]
- I have never seen anyone more knowledge of the explanations of the Ahadeeth than Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله. When we once differed on a ruling, we went to Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and he immediately presented a satisfying reply."[32]
- Hadhrat Isaam bin Yusuf رحمه الله narrates that they once said to Imaam Abu Yusuf رحمه الله, "People agree that there is none more knowledge of Fiqh and Ahadeeth than you." To this, he remarked, "My knowledge compared to that of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله is like a little stream beside the Euphrates River."[33]

11. When Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله once asked Hadhrat Imaam Maalik رحمه الله (passed away 179 A.H.) about several Muhadditheen, he described their conditions to him. when he then enquired about Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله, Imaam Maalik رحمه الله exclaimed, "Subhaanallaah! I have never seen any like him."[34]

12. Imaam Shaafi'ee رحمه الله (passed away 204 A.H.) said:

- "People are all successors of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله in Fiqh because I have never known a Faqih greater than him."
- "Anyone who does not refer to his (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله's) books can never have a deep understanding of knowledge and of Fiqh."[35]

13. Imaam Ahmad bin Hambal رحمه الله (passed away 241 A.H.) said, "In terms of his piety, abstinence and preference of the Aakhirah over this world, he (Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله) had reached a level that no other has."[36]
14. Imaamul Hadith Hadhrat Mis'ar bin Kudaam رحمه الله was a teacher of the compilers of the *Sihaah Sitta* and the Imaam of the Muhadditheen. This testimony is given by Ameerul Mu'mineen in Ahadeeth Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله. He was also the teacher of the likes of Hadhrat Sufyaan Thowri رحمه الله and Hadhrat Sufyaan bin Uyaynah رحمه الله. Despite this, he studies under Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله says, "I saw Mis'ar in the lessons of Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله, asking questions and deriving great benefit."[37] He has the following to say about Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله:

- "I am sure that a person has nothing to fear if he places Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله as a medium between himself and Allaah and if he follows his Madh'hab."[38]
- Hadhrat Mis'ar رحمه الله once passed by Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and his students as they were discussing something point of Fiqh in raised voices. He stood there for a while and then remarked, "These people are better

31 *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.61.
32 *Muwaffaq* (Vol.2 Pg.43).
33 *Muwaffaq* (Vol.2 Pg.42).
34 *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.29.
35 *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.29.
36 *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.30 and *Shaami* (Vol.1 Pg.56).
37 *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.29.
38 *Hadaa'iqe Hanafiyyah* pg.79.

than the martyrs, worshippers and those who perform Tahajjud. They are reviving the Sunnah of Rasulullaah ρ and removing the ignorant from their ignorance."[39]

15. The famous Muhaddith Imaam Awzaa'ee رحمه الله (passed away 157 A.H.) was a great Muhaddith, Faqih and Mujtahid. Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله relates, "Imaam Awzaa'ee رحمه الله once asked me, 'Who is this perpetrator of Bid'ah in Kufa who is known as Abu Haneefah?' I gave no reply, but later presented to him some rulings that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله had passed. After reading through them, Imaam Awzaa'ee رحمه الله saw that they were written by someone called Nu'maan bin Thaabit. He therefore asked me who this man was. I replied, 'He is a man whom I have met in Iraq.' Imaam Awzaa'ee رحمه الله then remarked, 'This is a gem from amongst scholars. Go and learn as much as you can from him.' I then told him, 'He is the same Abu Haneefah whom you have been preventing me from.' When Imaam Awzaa'ee رحمه الله later met Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله in Makkah, the two started discussing some rulings, to which Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله gave excellent explanations. After they had separated, Imaam Awzaa'ee رحمه الله said, 'I envy him for this tremendous knowledge and accomplishment of his wit. I repent from the error I had been living with. Stay close to him because he is not at all as I have been told."[40]

16. The great Muhaddith Makki bin Ibraheem رحمه الله (passed away 215 A.H.) was a Faqih, a great scholar of Ahadeeth and the teacher of Imaam Bukhaari رحمه الله and Allaama Ibn Ma'een رحمه الله. He used to say that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was the most knowledgeable scholar of the time.[41]

17. The famous Muhaddith, Aalim and saint Hadhrat Shaqeeq Balkhi رحمه الله (passed away 194 A.H.) said that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was the most knowledgeable of all people, the most pious of all, the most devoted worshipper of all, the most revered and most cautious.[42]

Apart from the above personalities, there have been many other Muhadditheen who have heaped praises upon Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله and testified to his veracity and dependability and to the fact that he was a Haafidh of Ahadeeth and a peerless Faqih. His great status can be ascertained from the fact that countless great Muhadditheen were his students and the compilers of the Sihaah Sitta were students of his students.

Despite these accolades there are people who still say that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was a weak narrator and knew only 14 to 17 Ahadeeth. If this is not prejudiced and a result of warped thinking, it can be nothing else.

Hadhrat Abdullaah bin Mubaarak رحمه الله reports that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله once saw himself in a dream digging the grave of Rasulullaah ρ and collecting Rasulullaah ρ's blessed bones. When someone asked for the interpretation from the famous dream interpreter Hadhrat Ibn Seereen رحمه الله, Hadhrat Ibn Seereen رحمه الله asked who it was that saw the dream. The person remained silent and again asked for the interpretation. When Hadhrat Ibn Seereen رحمه الله again asked who it was that saw the dream, the person again held his peace. Upon the third request, Hadhrat Ibn Seereen رحمه الله said,

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[39] *Muwaffaq* (Vol.1 Pg.249).
[40] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.30 and *Kurdi* (Vol.1 Pg.39).
[41] *Khayraatul Hisaan* pg.29.
[42] *Hadaa'iqe Hanafiyyah* pg.76.

"The person who saw this dream will make knowledge so apparent that none before him as ever done."[43]

Hadhrat Ali bin Uthmaan Hajweri Lahori رحمه الله who passed away in the year 465 A.H. was regarded as one of the leading Awliyaa of the Indian subcontinent. He wrote the famous book *Kashful Hujoob* and was a staunch Hanafi. He narrates an interesting dream he had when he fell asleep at the tomb of Hadhrat Bilaal τ in Damascus. He says that he saw himself in Makkah and that Rasulullaah ρ entered the Masjidul Haraam through the Banu Shaybah gate. He saw that just as a loving elders takes a child in his lap, Rasulullaah ρ took a man in his lap. Hadhrat Ali bin Uthmaan رحمه الله ran towards Rasulullaah ρ and started to kiss his hands and feet. Rasulullaah ρ knew that he wished to know who the person in his lap was, so he informed him that the man was Hadhrat Ali bin Uthmaan رحمه الله's Imaam and the Imaam of his nation, namely Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله.

Hadhrat Ali bin Uthmaan رحمه الله says that this gave him great hope in his people and told him that Imaam Abu Haneefah رحمه الله was one of those people lived only to keep the Shari'ah alive and he sacrificed himself only to keep alive what Rasulullaah ρ brought. Because his condition was such, he was therefore not likely to make any mistakes in his judgement.

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[43] *Mirqaat* (Vol.1 Pg.28).